

that his departure has left, that his candle will continue to glow through the minds and the hearts of the John Stewart family and the Lawrence North High School community.

TRADITIONAL COUNTRY FOR SIX DECADES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a small radio station with a big voice which has been broadcasting for six decades in Missouri. In Warrenton, Missouri, a small but growing community, Bill and Merle Zimmerman first established KWRE-AM-73, a radio station to serve the residents of east central Missouri 50 years ago. Playing tunes by Marty Robbins, Dottie West, and Jim Reeves, KWRE Radio officially hit the air waves in 1949 and has remained true to its motto of playing traditional country music ever since.

I would like to take these few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to honor those at this humble radio station who have reached out to people in Warren County, as well as Lincoln, Montgomery, Gasconade and Franklin Counties, deep in the heartland of Missouri's Ninth Congressional District.

Now, despite the demands of running a modern station, those at KWRE have maintained traditional homegrown values as their core operating method. As such, they have proven over the last 50 years that America still wants to hear wholesome traditional values and classic country songs.

In 1962, this hometown tradition was carried on by Vern and Lillian Kasper. The Kaspers bought KWRE Radio and were able to modernize the broadcast facilities, increase the community services offered by the station, and air award-winning editorials and other public service programs.

Those responsible for maintaining KWRE's traditional country image are people like Phil Summers, who brings a vast array of characters and endless trivia tidbits to the station's morning show each weekday. His award-winning show ranks as one of the best entertainment and local news shows in east central Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the quality of KWRE's morning programming. And currently, I and other locally-elected officials are regular guests on Mike Thomas' weekday "Livewire" program. "Livewire" is actually just that, a live wire. It covers a range of topics, from local school issues to international relations and everything in between. Every other week I am honored to be a guest on the "Livewire" show and help inform the listeners in east central Missouri about legislative action taking place here in our Nation's Capitol and how it affects folks at home.

Overall, there are several programs on KWRE that focus primarily on news

and information. The station broadcasts at least 15 daily news broadcasts to all six counties in east central Missouri.

In addition to providing top-notch newscasts, KWRE is also known for its broadcast of agricultural information. And having grown up on a family farm in Missouri, I know firsthand how important it is to have up-to-date market information and how useful it can be for local farmers and those involved in agribusiness. KWRE does this as well as any and better than most.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, KWRE also acts as the public service medium to inform its listeners about upcoming nonprofit events listed on its free bulletin board. KWRE-73 Sports is the hometown sports voice for area schools, broadcasting approximately 60 high school football and basketball games each school year. The station broadcasts a live weekly sports show, "Instant Replay," aimed at keeping the fan and sportsman in-the-know.

In summary, KWRE accommodates all ages of east central Missouri's residents whether it is the annual Senior Citizens Fair and Exposition or the annual Children's Christmas Party giving away thousands of dollars in toys to area children. The canned goods given for admission are distributed to local charities in time for Christmas delivery.

In conclusion, I want to express my admiration for those who have helped to maintain the hometown tradition since 1949. I wish KWRE in Warrenton, Missouri, all the best in their 50th anniversary celebration and hope they can continue to provide such wholesome, hometown coverage for east central Missouri for decades to come.

□ 1600

SUPPORT AMERICAN FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as we proceed with our work on Budget 2000, I want to take this occasion to pose the following question: Are we doing everything we need to do to support our American farmers? That is a question we all need to seriously think about.

In 1998, the agriculture sector of the economy suffered through one of the worst years in American history. Drought and other weather conditions, coupled with extremely low prices, significantly affected many producers in my home State, Texas. Farm and ranch production values declined more than \$2.4 billion from 1997 in Texas. The resulting loss in agribusiness income is an \$8 billion blow to the State's overall economy, mostly to the small rural communities like I represent in the 15th Congressional District.

Nationally, from 1996 to 1997, net farm income dropped 6.8 percent from \$53.4 billion to \$49.8 billion. Economists

forecast a 15.7 percent drop from \$197 billion to only \$42 billion in 1998. To say the least, these declines are dramatic.

While weather conditions will hopefully improve, the current price situation for crops and livestock remains bleak. Virtually every commodity has continuing low prices, with little prospect for improvement.

When the Congress passed the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, certain other issues were to be addressed. Those included: Passage of fast track negotiating authority, relief of government regulatory burdens, and the repeal of capital gains taxes and death taxes. In the 3 years since the passage of the FAIR Act, those promises have not been kept. I mention all of this because I feel it is important to constantly be mindful of how vital agriculture is to our country. When disasters occur, yes, action is taken to respond to them, but what we saw last year was too little, too late. That is not a philosophy to which I subscribe.

Mr. Speaker, much more needs to be done for America's farmers, and the time to do it is now, as we are now working on the budget. Let us help provide a safe and secure future for our farmers. Agriculture is a vital part of our economic fiber in our country, and the men and women who comprise America's farming community are important to our Nation's character. It is our responsibility to make sure that they survive and that they have an opportunity to prosper. Let us provide an environment in which they can.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close my remarks by tossing out two thoughts for consideration. They evidence why we absolutely need to do the right thing. In the next 30 years, the world's population will increase by 2.5 billion and the demand for food will double. Who is going to feed them? Everybody eats.

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS PORTEND GREAT COST TO ANGELENOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I wear on my lapel just above the pin signifying that this is the 106th Congress a pair of black horn-rimmed glasses representing the memory of the late great Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. Goldwater brought a simple, plain-spoken candor to public life, and, Mr. Speaker, I think it was typified by his straightforward declaration that as an American, people should have the right to join a union but they should likewise have the right not to join a union if they so desire. And mindful of some perilous trends in public policy, I rise on this occasion this afternoon.

California is the next-door neighbor of Arizona, and the Los Angeles Unified